

MEMORANDUM

ACTION - 22683

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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October 14, 1970 *C*

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Robert M. Behr *RM*

SUBJECT: Space Cooperation with the USSR

Peter Flanigan sent you a memorandum (Tab B) calling your attention to the imminent (26-27 October 70) visit to the USSR of a NASA team of experts who will discuss common space docking possibilities.

Mr. Flanigan suggests that you may wish to review the desirability of such an exchange "in light of our other relations with the Russians" and seeks your thoughts on the matter so he can counsel NASA.

In NSDM 70 (Tab C) you announced the President's decision that space cooperation with the Soviet Union should be pursued simultaneously through high-level diplomatic and technical agency channels.

The President noted and approved the scope of a US-USSR cooperative space program (Tab D) as forwarded by the NSC Under Secretaries Committee. Among the possible areas of cooperation identified in the report were ". . . projects looking toward improved safety, and desirable commonality in instrumentation and operating procedures (e.g. development of compatible docking equipment and communications arrangements for reciprocal space rescue)."

Since it is desirable (to the extent possible) to keep international scientific cooperation insulated from current political circumstances, I believe that we should proceed with this Presidentially approved initiative.

At Tab A is a draft reply to Peter Flanigan which states your conviction that the NASA visit should take place as scheduled.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum at Tab A.

Helmut Sonnenfeldt concurs. *HS*

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*Flanigan*  
*But tell him (need to keep*  
*further contacts under review*